ranama and governor on the isthmus. support them and the expedition bemost satisfactory ncy. The insurgent y agreed that their down their arms and agreement was carsional government of the old govld laws, so far as can be restored, a erly held and a new gurated Peace has d, and the harvesting crop, the great crop out to proceed. a has been held and ent inaugurated in

ly fashion the prot will come to an opportunity of ex-If of the American salble solemnity our e that the people of the imperative need tice and keeping or-The United States Cuba except that it fully and materially g of the Cubans save able to preserve orives and therefore to dependence. If the farce and if the innecomes confirmed bsolutely out of the island should conand the United essumed the sponsorcivilized world for nation, would again and to see that the nanaged in such orsecure the safety The path to be who exercise self ways hard, and we charity and patience as they tread this have the utmost symregard for them, but I adjure them solemnly responsibilities and to their new government is all run smoothly and with m flagrant denial of right and and from insurrectionnees on the other.

Rio Conference.

international conference republics, held in Mexico 1901-02, provided for the third conference within committed the fixing of place and the arrangeconference to the govof the bureau of Ameris, composed of the repref all the American nations tion. That board dischargity imposed upon it with elity and palastaking care, the courteous invitation of States of Brazil the conna held at Rio de Janeiro, from the 23d of July to of August last. Many subcommon interest to all the nations were discussed by conference, and the conclusions epod, embodied in a series of resoions and proposed conventions, will laid before you upon the coming a of the final report of the American calegates. They contain many matters of importance relating to the extension of trade, the increase of communication, the smoothing away of barriers to free intercourse and the promotion of a better knowledge and good understanding between the different countries represented. The meetings of the conference were harmonious and the conclusions were reached with substantial unanimity. It is interesting to observe that in the successive conferences which have been held the representatives of the different American nations have been learning to work together effectively, for while the first conference in Washington in 1889 and the second conference in Mexico in 1901-02 occupied many months, with much time wasted in an unregulated and fruitless discussion, the third conference at Rio exhibited which of the facility in the practical dispatch of business which characterfres permanent deliberative bodies and completed its labors within the period of six weeks originally allotted for its

Quite apart from the specific value of the conclusions reached by the conference, the example of the representaflives of all the American nations engaging in harmonious and kindly consideration and discussion of subjects of common interest is itself of great and substantial value for the promotion of reasonable and considerate treatment of all international questions. The thanks of this country are due to the government of Brazil and to the people of Rio de Janeiro for the generous hospitality with which our delegates. n common with others, were received. entertained and facilitated in their work.

Root's Visit South

conference the secretary of state visit. Ayres. He spoke of-

hy Mr. Magoon, the of which he was made an honorary president. The announcement of his intention to make this visit was followed by most courteous and urgent invitations from nearly all the countries of South America to visit them as the guest of their governments. It was deemed that by the acceptance of these invitations we might appropriately express the real respect and friendship in which we hold our sister republics of the southern continent, and the secretary accordingly visited Brazil, Uruand will thus ad- guay, Argentina, Chile, Peru, Panama d for a few months and Colombia. He refrained from visiting Paraguay, Bolivia and Ecuador only because the distance of their capitals from the seaboard made it inpracticable with the time at his disposal. He carried with him a message of peace and friendship and of strong desire for good understanding and mutual helpfulness, and he was everywhere received in the spirit of his message. The members of the government, the press, the learned professions, the men of business and the great masses of the people united everywhere in emphatic response to his friendly expressions and in doing honor to the country and cause which he represented.

In many parts of South America there has been much misunderstanding of the attitude and purposes of the United States toward the other American republics. An idea had become prevalent that our assertion of the Monroe doctrine implied or carried with it an assumption of superiority and of a right to exercise some kind of protectorate over the countries to whose territory that doctrine applies. Nothing could be further from the truth. Yet that impression continued to be a serious barrier to good understanding, to friendly intercourse, to the introduction of American capital and the extension of American trade. The impression was so widespread that apparently it could not be reached by any ordinary means.

It was part of Secretary Root's mission to dispel this unfounded impression, and there is just cause to believe that he has succeeded. In an address to the third conference at Rio on the 31st of July-an address of such note that I send it in, together with this message-he said:

"We wish for no victories but those of peace, for no territory except our own, for no sovereignty except the sovereignty over ourselves. We deem the independence and equal rights of the smallest and weakest member of the family of nations entitled to as much respect as those of the greatest empire, and we deem the observance of that respect the chief guaranty of the weak against the oppression of the strong. We neither claim nor desire any rights or privileges or powers that we do not freely concede to every American republic. We wish to increase our prosperity, to extend our trade, to grow in wealth, in wisdom and in spirit, but our conception of the true way to accomplish this is not to pull down others and profit by their ruin, but to help all friends to a common prosperity and a common growth that we may all become greater and stronger together.

"Within a few months for the first time the recognized possessors of every foot of soil upon the American continents can be and I hope will be represented with the acknowledged rights of equal sovereign states in the great world congress at The Hague. This will be the world's formal and final acceptance of the declaration that no part of the American continents is to be deemed subject to colonization. Let us pledge ourselves to aid each other in the full performance of the duty to humanity which that accepted declaration implies, so that in time the weakest and most unfortunate of our republles may come to march with equal step by the side of the stronger and more fortunate. Let us help each other to show that for all the races of men the liberty for which we have fought and labored is the twin sister of justice and peace. Let us unite in creating and maintaining and making effective an all American public opin ion whose power shall influence international conduct and prevent international wrong and narrow the causes of war and forever preserve our free lands from the burden of such arma ments as are massed behind the fron tiers of Europe and bring us ever nearer to the perfection of ordered tib erty. So shall come security and pros perity, production and trade, wealth learning, the arts and happiness for us all."

The Monree Doctrine.

These words appear to have been received with acciaim in every part of South America. They have my hearty approval, as I am sure they will have yours, and I cannot be wrong in the conviction that they correctly represent the sentiments of the whole American people. I cannot better characterize the true attitude of the United States in its assertion of the Monroe doctrine than in the words of the distinguished former minister of foreign affaire of Argentine, Dr. Drage, in his Incidentally to the meeting of the speech welcoming Mr. Root at Busness superiority or seeking preponderance condemned the oppression of the nations of this part of the world and the control of their destinles by the great powers of Europe."

It is gratifying to know that in the great city of Buenos Ayres upon the arches which spanned the streets intwined with Argentine and American flags for the reception of our representative there were emblazoned not only the names of Washington and Jefferson and Marshall, but also, in appreciative recognition of their services to the cause of South American independence, the names of James Monroe, John Quincy Adams, Henry Clay and Richard Rush. We take especial pleasure in the graceful courtesy of the government of Brazil, which has given to the beautiful and stately building first used for the meeting of the conference the name of "Palacio Monroe." Our grateful acknowledgments are due to the governments and the people of all the countries visited by the secretary of state for the courtesy, the friendship and the honor shown to our country in their generous hospitality to him.

In my message to you on the 5th of December, 1905, I called your attention to the embarrassment that might be caused to this government by the assertion by foreign nations of the right to collect by force of arms contract debts due by American republics to citizens of the collecting nation and to the danger that the process of compulsory collection might result in the occupation of territory tending to become permanent. I then said:

"Our own government has always refused to enforce such contractual obligations on behalf of its citizens by an appeal to arms. It is much to be wished that all foreign governments would take the same view."

South American Debts.

This subject was one of the topics of consideration at the conference at Rio, and a resolution was adopted by that conference recommending to the respective governments represented "to consider the advisability of asking the second peace covference at The Hague to examine the question of the compulsory collection of public debts and in general means tending to diminish among nations conflicts of purely pecuniary origin."

representatives of the United States in | 1880, which was also signed both by accordance with the following instruc- the United States and a majority of

"It has long been the established polcy of the United States not to use its armed forces for the collection of ordinary contract debts due to its citinot considered the use of force for ratify it would merely mean that we such a purpose consistent with that respect for the independent sovereignty of other members of the family of nations which is the most important principle of international law and the chief protection of weak nations against the oppression of the strong. It seems to us that the practice is injurious in its general effect upon the relations of nations and upon the welfare of weak and disordered states, whose development ought to be encouraged in the interests of civilization; that it offers frequent temptation to bullying and oppression and to unnecessary and un justifiable warfare. We regret that other powers, whose opinions and sense of justice we esteem highly, have at times taken a different view and have permitted themselves, though we believe with reluctance, to collect such debts by force. It is doubtless true that the nonpayment of public debts may be accompanied by such circumstances of fraud and wrongdoing or violation of treaties as to justify the use of force. This government would be glad to see an international consideration of the subject which shall discriminate between such cases and the simple nonperformance of a contract with a private person and a resolution in favor of reliance upon peaceful

means in cases of the latter class. "It is not felt, however, that the con ference at Rio should undertake to make such a discrimination or to resolve upon such a rule. Most of the American countries are still debtor na tions, while the countries of Europe are the creditors. If the Rio conference therefore, were to take such action I would have the appearance of a meet ing of debtors resolving how their cred itors should not, and this would not aspire respect. The true course is in dicated by the terms of the programme, which proposes to request the second Hague conference, where both credltors and debtors will be assembled, to consider the subject.

Central America.

Last June trouble which had existed for some time between the republics of Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras culminated in war-a war which threatened to be ruinous to the countries involved and very destructive to the commercial interests of Americans, Mexicans and other foreigners who are taking an important part in the development of these countries. The thoroughly good understanding which exists betwoon the United States and Mexico

continued and patient effort, in bringing about a meeting of the representatives of the hostile powers on board a United States warship as neutral territory, and peace was there concludeda peace which resulted in the saving of thousands of lives and in the prevention of an incalculable amount of misery and the destruction of property and of the means of livelihood. The Rio conference passed the following resolution in reference to this action:

"That the third international Amerfcan conference shall address to the presidents of the United States of America and of the United States of Mexico a note in which the conference which is being held at Rio expresses its satisfaction at the happy results of their mediation for the celebration of peace between the republics of Guatemala, Honduras and Salvador."

This affords an excellent example of one way in which the influence of the United States can properly be exercised for the benefit of the peoples of the western hemisphere-that is, by action taken in concert with other American republics and therefore free from those suspicions and prejudices which might attach if the action were taken by one alone. In this way it is possible to exercise a powerful influence toward the substitution of considerate action in the spirit of justice for the insurrectionary or international violence which has hitherto been so great a hindrance to the development of many of our neighbors. Repeated examples of united action by several or many American republics in favor of peace by urging cool and reasonable instead of excited and belligerent treatment of international controversles cannot fail to promote the growth of a general public opinion among the American nations which will elevate the standards of international action. strengthen the sense of international duty among governments and tell in favor of the peace of mankind.

Panama Trip.

I have just returned from a trip to Panama and shall report to you at length later on the whole subject of the Panama canal.

The Algeoiras Convention.

The Algeciras convention, which was signed by the United States as well as by most of the powers of Europe, su-This resolution was supported by the persedes the previous convention of the European powers. This treaty confers upon us equal commercial rights with all European countries and does not entail a single obligation of any kind upon us, and I earnestly hope it zens by other governments. We have may be speedly ratified. To refuse to forfelted our commercial rights in Morocco and would not achieve another object of any kind. In the event of such refusal we would be left for the first time in 120 years without any commercial treaty with Morocco, and this at a time when we are everywhere seeking new markets and outlets for

PROTECTION OF SEALS.

History of This Problem and Present Status.

The destruction of the Pribilof island fur seals by pelagic sealing still continues. The herd which, according to the surveys made in 1874 by direction of the congress, numbered 4,700, 000 and which, according to the survey of both American and Canadian commissioners in 1891, amounted to 1,000,000 has now been reduced to about 180,000. This result has been brought about by Canadian and some other sealing vessels killing the female seals while in the water during their annual pilgrimage to and from the south or in search of food. As a rule, the female seal when killed is pregpant and also has an unweaned pup on land, so that for each skin taken by pelagic sealing, as a rule, three lives are destroyed-the mother, the unborn offspring and the nursing pup, which is left to starve to death. No damage whatever is done to the herd by the carefully regulated killing on land. The custom of pelagic sealing is solely responsible for all of the present evil and is alike indefensible from the economic standpoint and from the standpoint of humanity,

In 1896 over 16,000 young seals were found dead from starvation on the Priblief islands. In 1897 it was estimated that since pelagic scaling began upward of 400,000 adult female seals and been killed at sea and over 300,000 young seals had died of starvation as the result. The revolting barbarity of such a practice, as well as the wasteful destruction which it involves, needs no demonstration and is its own condemnation. The Bering sea tribunal, which sat in Paris in 1803 and which decided against the claims of the United States to exclusive jurisdiction in the waters of Bering sea and to a property right in the fur seals when outside of the three mile limit, determined also upon certain regulations which the tribunal considered Mexico to units in effective mediation of the fur seal in or rangement of the predictantee for berwests the warring republic, which habitually resisting to the Boring sea, such a publisher has been proven

rished a close season, from the 1st of May to the 31st of July, and excluded all killing in the waters within sixty miles around the Pribilof islands. They also provided that the regulations which they had determined upon, with a view to the protection and preservation of the seals, should be submitted every five years to new examination, so as to enable both interested governments to consider whether in the light of past experience there was occasion for any modification thereof

The regulations have proved plainly Inadequate to accomplish the object of protection and preservation of the fur seals, and for a long time this government has been trying in vain to secure from Great Britain such revision and modification of the regulations as were contemplated and provided for by the award of the tribunal of Paris.

The process of destruction has been accelerated during recent years by the appearance of a number of Japanese vessels engaged in pelagic sealing. As these vessels have not been bound even by the inadequate limitations prescribed by the tribunal of Paris, they have paid no attention either to the close senson or to the sixty mile Both imposed upon Canadians and have prosecuted their work up to the very islands themselves. On July 16 and 17 the crews from several Japanese vessels made raids upon the island of St. Paul, and before they were beaten off by the very meager and insufficiently armed guard they succeeded in killing several hundred seals and carrying off the skins of most of them. Nearly all the seals killed were females, and the work was done with frightful barbarity. Many of the seals appear to have been skinned alive, and many were found half skinned and still alive. The raids were repelled only by the use of firearms, and five of the raiders were killed, two were wounded and twelve captured, including the two wounded. Those captured have since been tried and sentenced to imprisonment. An attack of this kind had been wholly unlooked for, but such provision of

vessels, arms and ammunition will now be made that its repetition will not be found profitable.

Promise by Japan.

Suitable representations regarding the incident have been made to the government of Japan, and we are assured that all practicable measures will be taken by that country to prevent any recurrence of the outrage. On our part, the guard on the island will be increased and better equipped and organized, and a better revenue cutter patrol service about the islands will be established. Next season a United States war vessel will also be sent there.

We have not relaxed our efforts to secure an agreement with Great Britain for adequate protection of the seal herd, and negotiations with Japan for the same purpose are in progress.

The laws for the protection of the seals within the jurisdiction of the United States need revision and amendment. Only the islands of St. Paul and St. George are now in terms included in the government reservation, and the other islands are also to be included. The landing of allens as well as citizens upon the islands without a permit from the department of commerce and labor for any purpose except in case of stress of weather or for water should be prohibited under adequate penalties. The approach of vessels for the excepted purposes should be regulated. The authority of the government agents on the islands should be enlarged, and the chief agent should have powers of a committing magistrate. The entrance of a vessel into the territorial waters surrounding the islands with intent to take seals should be made a criminal offense and cause of forfeiture. Authority for seizures in such cases should be given, and the presence on any such vessel of seals of sealskins or the paraphernalia for taking them should be made prima face evidence of such intent. I recommend what legislation is needed to accomplish these ends, and I commend to your attention the report of Mr. Sims of the department of commerce and labor on this subject.

In case we are compelled to about don the hope of making arrangement with other governments to put an cal to the bideous eruelty now incident to pelagic scaling it will be a question in your serious consideration bow far ar should continue to protect and tain the seal herd on land with the result of continuing such a practice and whether it is not better to the practice by exterminating the hard ourselves in the most humane way por

EFFORTS FOR PEACE.

Our Duty as a Nation to Further This

In my last message I advised you that the emperor of Russia had taken the initiative in bringing about a secand peace conference at The Happe